instances of violation of the provisions of the Share Holders' Agreement, entered into by the Government with the Strategic Partner, have been identified in the report.

Banking Cooperative Societies

1939. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring Banking Co-operative Societies at par with commercial banking companies by Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 2003; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to withhold the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provision Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Parliament to amend Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to give greater operational flexibility to Reserve Bank of India and to redefine its control over co-operative banks. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has referred to the need for making cooperatives, 'democratic and autonomous'. In view of this and the concern expressed by certain State Governments, the Bill has been referred to the Reserve Bank of India for revisiting the proposals taking into account both the regulatory issues as well as the concerns of the Cooperative Credit Institutions.

Expenditure on foreign travel

1940. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more expenditure has been incurred on foreign travel expenses of officers and Ministers during 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.